as fish and wildlife in the specific area may be especially vulnerable to such activities. The Secretary is authorized to enter into contracts with public or private entities to carry out all or any portion of the mineral assessment program. This section shall not apply to the lands described in section 3141 of this title.

# (b) Regulations

Activities carried out in conservation system units under subsection (a) shall be subject to regulations promulgated by the Secretary. Such regulations shall ensure that such activities are carried out in an environmentally sound manner—

- (1) which does not result in lasting environmental impacts which appreciably alter the natural character of the units or biological or ecological systems in the units; and
- (2) which is compatible with the purposes for which such units are established.

(Pub. L. 96–487, title X, §1010, Dec. 2, 1980, 94 Stat. 2456.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Wilderness Act, referred to in subsec. (a), is Pub. L. 88–577, Sept. 3, 1964, 78 Stat. 890, as amended, which is classified generally to chapter 23 (§1131 et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1131 of this title and Tables.

This Act, referred to in subsec. (a), is Pub. L. 96–487, Dec. 2, 1980, 94 Stat. 2371, as amended, known as the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 3101 of this title and Tables.

#### §3151. Omitted

# CODIFICATION

Section, Pub. L. 96–487, title X, §1011, Dec. 2, 1980, 94 Stat. 2457; Pub. L. 102–285, §10(b), May 18, 1992, 106 Stat. 172, which required the President to annually transmit to Congress all pertinent public information relating to minerals in Alaska gathered by the United States Geological Surveys, United States Bureau of Mines, and any other Federal agency, terminated, effective May 15, 2000, pursuant to section 3003 of Pub. L. 104–66, as amended, set out as a note under section 1113 of Title 31, Money and Finance. See, also, page 32 of House Document No. 103–7.

SUBCHAPTER IV—TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITY SYSTEMS IN AND ACROSS, AND ACCESS INTO, CONSERVATION SYSTEM UNITS

# § 3161. Congressional declaration of findings

Congress finds that-

- (a) Alaska's transportation and utility network is largely undeveloped and the future needs for transportation and utility systems in Alaska would best be identified and provided for through an orderly, continuous decisionmaking process involving the State and Federal Governments and the public;
- (b) the existing authorities to approve or disapprove applications for transportation and utility systems through public lands in Alaska are diverse, dissimilar, and, in some cases, absent; and
- (c) to minimize the adverse impacts of siting transportation and utility systems within units

established or expanded by this Act and to insure the effectiveness of the decisionmaking process, a single comprehensive statutory authority for the approval or disapproval of applications for such systems must be provided in this Act.

(Pub. L. 96–487, title XI, §1101, Dec. 2, 1980, 94 Stat. 2457.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in subsec. (c), is Pub. L 96–487, Dec. 2, 1980, 94 Stat. 2371, as amended, known as the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 3101 of this title and Tables.

## §3162. Definitions

For purposes of this subchapter—

- (1) The term "applicable law" means any law of general applicability (other than this subchapter) under which any Federal department or agency has jurisdiction to grant any authorization (including but not limited to, any right-ofway, permit, license, lease, or certificate) without which a transportation or utility system cannot, in whole or in part, be established or operated.
- (2) The term "applicant" means any public or private person, including, but not limited to, any Federal department or agency.
- (3) The term "Federal agency" means any Federal department or agency that has any function or duty under applicable law.
- (4)(A) The term "transportation or utility system" means any type of system described in subparagraph (B) if any portion of the route of the system will be within any conservation system unit, national recreation area, or national conservation area in the State (and the system is not one that the department or agency having jurisdiction over the unit or area is establishing incident to its management of the unit or area).
- (B) The types of systems to which subparagraph (A) applies are as follows:
  - (i) Canals, ditches, flumes, laterals, pipes, pipelines, tunnels, and other systems for the transportation of water.
  - (ii) Pipelines and other systems for the transportation of liquids other than water, including oil, natural gas, synthetic liquid and gaseous fuels, and any refined product produced therefrom.
  - (iii) Pipelines, slurry and emulsion systems and conveyor belts for the transportation of solid materials.
  - (iv) Systems for the transmission and distribution of electric energy.
  - (v) Systems for transmission or reception of radio, television, telephone, telegraph, and other electronic signals, and other means of communication.
  - (vi) Improved rights-of-way for snow machines, air cushion vehicles, and other all-terrain vehicles.
  - (vii) Roads, highways, railroads, tunnels, tramways, airports, landing strips, docks, and other systems of general transportation.

Any system described in this subparagraph includes such related structures and facilities